



U.S. Department of Justice

*United States Attorney
District of New Hampshire*

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MEDIA RELEASE

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**NORTHERN NEW ENGLAND
HIGH INTENSITY DRUG TRAFFICKING AREA ("HIDTA") TASK FORCE**

**METHUEN MAN SENTENCED ON COCAINE CONSPIRACY CHARGE;
OVER \$170,000 FORFEITED**

Re: United States v. Michael Malignaggi

CONCORD, NEW HAMPSHIRE: United States Attorney Tom Colantuono, Drug Enforcement Administration Resident Agent in Charge Leo Ducey, and N.H. Drug Task Force Commander James Norris announced that **Michael MALIGNAGGI**, date of birth of July 12, 1971, of Methuen, Massachusetts was sentenced today on federal cocaine conspiracy charges.

On December 9, 2002, Malignaggi entered a guilty plea before U.S. District Judge Steven J. McAuliffe to an information charging him with conspiracy to distribute over five kilograms of cocaine between July and October, 2002.

At today's sentencing, Judge McAuliffe imposed a sentence of 57 months of imprisonment followed by a 5-year period of supervised release during which Malignaggi's behavior will be monitored by the U.S. Department of Probation.

The investigation of Malignaggi's activities culminated in the execution of a search warrant at his Methuen home on October 2, 2003, resulting in the seizure of approximately 13 kilos of cocaine, four firearms, and \$170,000 in cash drug proceeds, as well as the arrest of co-conspirator Richard DeFrancesco, who was sentenced on September 25, 2003 to 100 months of imprisonment.

U.S. Attorney Colantuono stated, "This multi-defendant case involving interstate cocaine trafficking is a prime example of the effectiveness of New England HIDTA, and the

Northern New England HIDTA Task Force. Its cooperative efforts with other law enforcement agencies in this case, especially Attorney General Peter Heed's N.H. Drug Task Force, resulted in a massive cocaine seizure, the removal of firearms from the street, and a large cash forfeiture. I will continue to commit federal resources to these and other cooperative efforts between federal and local law enforcement agencies."

The prosecution is being handled by Assistant United States Attorney Joseph N. Laplante, the Lead Attorney for the District of New Hampshire in the New England Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Force ("New England OCDEF").